

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 /083 W
-----005733 132213Z /21

O R 132109Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7107
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, NU
SUBJECT: CONFRONTATIONAL VIOLENCE: FEWER DEAD BUT MANY WOUNDED

REF: A) MANAGUA 3108, B) MANAGUA 3124

SUMMARY: THE CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN DEMONSTRATORS AND
GUARDIA (GN) ON JULY 11 IN JINOTEPE, SAN MARCOS, AND
DIRIAMBÁ NOW APPEAR TO HAVE LEFT THREE DEAD, ALL IN SAN
MARCOS, AND REPORTEDLY OVER TWENTY WOUNDED FROM BULLETS
AND SHRAPNEL FROM HOMEMADE BOMBS. ON THE SAME DAY, CONTACT
BOMBS WERE THROWN AT THE HOUSE OF MINECONOMY BLANDON'S
HOUSE IN LEON. ON JULY 12, THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN ON-
GING DISTURBANCES IN MASAY, BUT APPARENTLY NO CONFRONTATIONS
OR CASUALTIES. IN MANAGUA, IN THE EVENING, A POLICE POST
WAS MACHINE GUNNED FROM A PASSING VEHICLE WOUNDING ONE
POLICE RECRUIT. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESS AND REDIO REPORTS REGARDING THE EVENTS IN
SAN MARCOS ON JULY 11 INDICATE A BOMB EXPLODED IN A
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CHURCH OCCUPIED BY YOUNG PROTESTORS INJURING SEVERAL
OF THE YOUTH. A LARGE CROWD GATHERED AT THE CHURCH. THE
GN ARRIVED AND BEGAN FIRING THEIR WEAPONS WHICH REPORTEDLY
INCLUDED AT LEAST ONE MACHINE GUN. THREE MALES AGED
12, 17, AND 27 DIED AND PERHAPS TWENTY WERE REPORTED
WOUNDED ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW MANY WERE WOUNDED BY GUN
FIRE AS OPPOSED TO THE BOMB EXPLOSION OR FROM OTHER CAUSES.

A GN INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN INITIATED.

2. IN JINOTEPE, SEVERAL PEOPLE WERE REPORTED WOUNDED APPARENTLY RELATED TO A GN OPERATION TO DISLODGE STUDENTS WHO WERE OCCUPYING THE NORMAL SCHOOL. THE GN REPORTEDLY FIRED SHOTS INCLUDING SOME FORM OF LARGE SHELL WHICH WAS SAID TO BE FROM A BAZOOKA. THERE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN NO DEATHS.

3. THERE WERE OTHER CONFRONTATIONS IN JINOTEPE WITH YOUTH THROWING ROCKS AND CONTACT BOMBS AT BULLDOZER CREWS WHO WERE TRYING TO CLEAR THE STREETS OF BARICADES, AND BROKEN GLASS. IN DIRIAMBA, THE GN ENCOUNTERED A GROUP OF YOUTH ERECTING A BARRICADE ON THE INTERAMERICAN HIGHWAY WHICH PASSES THROUGH THE TOWN. THE STUDENTS THREW BOMBS AT THE GUARDIA AND THE GN RESPONDED WITH SHOTS IN THE AIR DISPERSING THE STUDENTS WITH NO CASUALTIES.

4. IN LEON, THE HOUSE OF MIN. OF ECONOMY BLANDON WAS THE TARGET OF FOUR CONTACT BOMBS AND TWO MOLOTOV COCKTAILS (WHICH DID NOT IGNITE). NO ONE WAS INJURED AND THE PERSONS WHO THREW THE BOMBS ESCAPED.

5. IN THE EVENING OF JULY 12, THE POLICE POST IN MANAGUA'S ALTAGRACIA NEIGHBORHOOD WAS THE TARGET OF MACHINE GUN FIRE FROM A PASSING TAXI. OF THE THREE PERSONS INSIDE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONE WAS HIT IN THE LEG. NOVEDADES REPORTED, ON JULY 13, THAT THE TAXI WAS LOCATED AND THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK, INCLUDING TWO WOMEN, WERE CAPTURED.

6. ALSO ON JULY 12, THERE WAS AN INCIDENT IN MASAYA WHERE BOMBS HAVE BEEN EXPLODING NIGHTLY. EMB UNDERSTANDS THAT THE GN HAS BEEN UNDER ORDERS NOT TO ENTER THE MONIMBO DISTRICT TO AVOID CONFRONTATION. HOWEVER, UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORTS INDICATE A HIGHER LEVEL OF PROTEST DISTURBANCES THAN USUAL AND GN ARMORED VEHICLE ENTERED THE AREA. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT THERE WAS GUNFIRE, BUT THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF ANY CASUALTIES.

7. THE OTHER INCIDENTS AS REPORTED REFTELS WERE SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT. A SMOKE BOMB RATHER THAN TEAR GAS BOMB WAS SET OFF AT THE LIBERAL PARTY RALLY ON JULY 11 IN MANAGUA. FOUR BUSES WERE BURNED BY PROTESTING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

8. THERE HAVE BEEN PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS IN OTHER CITIES AS WELL, USUALLY CHARACTERIZED BY BONFIRES IN THE STREETS AND THE EXPLOSION OF HOME MADE BOMBS, BUT

NONE OF THESE INCIDENTS APPEAR TO HAVE LED TO GN-CIVILIAN CONFRONTATIONS.

9 COMMENT: THE LEVEL OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS HAS INCREASED DURING THIS WEEK. IN ALL CASES, THEY APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN INITIATED BY YOUTH ENGAGING IN CIVIL DISTURBANCES. THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE THE MARK OF FSLN OR PRO-FSLN MOTIVATION AS WAS DEMONSTRATED BY THE PLETHORA OF FSLN FLAGS (BLACK AND RED) WHICH APPEARED AT THE FUNERAL PROCESSION IN JINOTEPE ON JULY 10. THE FATHER OF ONE OF THE DEAD YOUTHS IDENTIFIED HIS SON AS A MEMBER OF THE FSLN. FROM A LARGE NUMBER OF SUCH INCIDENTS, ONLY TWO HAVE RESULTED IN FATALITIES: JINOTEPE ON JULY 9 WHERE FOUR YOUTHS DIED (A REPORTED FIFTH DEATH MAY HAVE BEEN UNRELATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO THE OTHER FOUR), AND SAN MARCOS ON JULY 11 WHERE THREE DIED. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL DOZEN OTHER PERSONS WOUNDED AS A RESULT OF THESE DISTURBANCES. EMB VIEW IS THAT GN MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS AND SOME OF THE INJURIES. IT DOES NOT APPEAR, HOWEVER, THAT GN INSTRUCTIONS TO LIMIT THEIR RESPONSE TO TEAR GAS AND SHOTS IN THE AIR HAVE CHANGED. THE CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN THE GN AND PROTESTORS HAVE RESULTED LARGELY FROM THE GN RESPONDING TO CIVIL DISTURBANCES WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN OFTEN MET WITH THROWN BOMBS AND ROCKS. EMBASSY EXPECTS THERE WILL BE A CONTINUATION OF CIVIL DISTURBANCES AND CONFRONTATIONS WITH AUTHORITIES. SEPTTEL WILL REPORT PLANS FOR A ONE-DAY WORK STOPPAGE ON JUNE 19. SOLAUN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAGU03180
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780288-0013
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780765/aaaacchs.tel
Line Count: 150
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4d55da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANAGUA 3108, 78 MANAGUA 3124
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2022415
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONFRONTATIONAL VIOLENCE: FEWER DEAD BUT MANY WOUNDED
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, NU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4d55da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014